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P R A Y E R S

FOR THE USE OF
PRIVATE PERSONS,
FAMILIES,
CHILDREN AND SERVANTS.

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One of the great Instruments of Religion is Prayer: We are commanded to ask in order to receive; and HE must have but little Sense of those good Things, which GOD daily bestows on him, who refuses to give the Tribute of a thankful Heart: HE must have but slight Notions of his own Weakness and Impotency, who does not seek Help from above.—Never begin the Day without addressing yourself to the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth; and never retire to your Rest without commending yourself to his Protection.

NELSON's Practice of True Devotion.
Cast not off Fear, nor restrain Prayer before GOD, Job xv. 4.

THE TWELFTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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P R E C E.



THE late Bishop of London (Dr. Gibson) and other eminent Divines of our Church have urged it, as the Duty of every Master of a Family to instruct his Children, and Servants; and to furnish them with Prayers for their daily Use: And, though many may neglect this Duty, they cannot discharge themselves from the Obligations to it: For has not the Scripture enjoined us to pray; commanded us “to teach God’s Words diligently to our Children;” (*Deut. vi. 7.*) and recommended for our Imitation the Examples of Abraham, Joshua, Cornelius, and others, who manifested a religious Care of their Families.

These Prayers (*occasional*, as well as *daily*) are therefore published, not to exclude the Use of others, but to furnish the Heads of Families at a small Expence with such, as by the Blessing of God, may be serviceable to themselves, and to those committed by Providence to their Care: And, lest the constant and daily Use of the same Form for Morning and Evening, should insensibly lead the Persons, or Families using it into mere Formality, I have, in Order to remove this Objection, supplied them with several: Some of my own composing, some from the most approved devotional Writers.

It is hoped, that they, who use these Prayers, will carefully consider what a great, awful, and glorious Being they are addressing, and will worship Him with Reverence and Seriousness of Spirit.—Kneeling is undoubtedly the most decent, humble, and becoming Posture, and was used by Solomon, Daniel, St. Paul, and even Christ himself: Yet when any, by Sickness, Weakness, or other unavoidable Hindrances, cannot kneel, let them content themselves with any other Posture, and pray as they fit, stand, ride, walk, or lie in Bed: remembering, that the Disposition of the Heart is the main Thing at which the all-seeing God looks, and that (as the Psalmist expresses it) “if any regard Iniquity in their Hearts, the Lord will not hear their Prayers:” (*Psalms lxvi. 18.*) But in Circumstances where Kneeling can be complied with, it would be downright Laziness, and great Irreverence not to kneel.

BRISTOL, Oct. 5, 1773.

✍ An Edition of these Prayers is printed in a large Character, for the Use of such, as are advanced in Years. Price Six-pence.

P R A Y E R S,

designed to be given away by Parents to their Children, Masters to their Servants, and Ministers to their Parishioners.

A M O R N I N G P R A Y E R.

This is intended principally for a Person in private: But when it is used, as a Family Prayer, We must be changed for I—our for my—Ourselves for Myself, with such other Alterations, as Circumstances may require. Such Words therefore are printed in a different Letter, that they may more readily be distinguished.

Adoration. | **O** Lord God Almighty, thou makest Light and createst Darkness, thou causest the Returns of Morning and Evening to rejoice.

Thanksgiving. | *I* thankfully acknowledge thy Goodness, that *I* am brought in Safety to see the Light of another Morning, while *many* have slept the Sleep of Death. With my restored Strength and Capacities *I* would praise thee, as my Life, and the Length of my Days.

Self-Dedication. | *I* would this Morning seriously devote myself to Thee, and solemnly engage in thine awful Presence, to spend this Day as a reasonable Creature, and a Christian, in serving Thee and my Fellow-Creatures, and working out my own Salvation.

General Confession and Petition for Pardon.

I have alas! spent too many Days in Folly and Sin, forgetful of God, of the Worth of my Soul, and of my Christian Privileges and Hopes. I acknowledge my Transgressions, and would be sorry for all my Sins: I sincerely repent of them before Thee, and earnestly intreat thy Forgiveness through thy Son Jesus Christ, “ who gave himself a Sacrifice for our Sins, “ and ever liveth to make Intercession for us.”

For Assistance.

Through Him I beg the Assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that I may for the future lead a sober, righteous, and godly Life, abstain from the Appearance of Evil, and adorn my Christian Profession.

For others.

I humbly pray for all my Fellow Creatures, especially for my Relations and Friends, that they may receive Mercies suitable to their various Wants, and that they may wisely improve them.

For God's Blessing.

I beseech Thee, O Lord, to keep me this Day from all Evil, in my Going out, and Coming-in. Feed me with Food convenient for me, and grant me Health and Peace. May thy Blessing attend all my lawful Business, and Enjoyments. May a Sense of thy Presence, and a Regard to thy Glory, fill my Heart; and may I be in the Fear of the Lord all the Day long. May these Regards to Thee, the all-seeing God, engage me to be diligent in Business, to bridle my Tongue, to govern my Passions, and to rule my Spirit. May I seize every Opportunity of doing Good to others, and improving my own Knowledge, and Piety: and may I have Reason in the Evening for comfortable Reflections on the Manner, in which I have spent the Day, and for grateful Acknowledgment of thy Care and Goodness: And in all I do may I be graciously accepted through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Sunday Morning let what follows between Hooks [thus] be added.

[Thou hast been pleased, in thy great Goodness, O Lord, to set apart this first Day of the Week to be a Day of Rest from our Labours, and of public Worship, assist me, therefore, to keep it holy to Thee. May I attend thy Worship with Seriousness, Devotion, and Delight; hear thy Word with Reverence, and improve in Knowledge and Goodness by it. May

I never dare to profane *thy holy Day* by Working; Sports, or Idleness, but give myself to *Meditation* on thy glorious Works, on the Resurrection of thy Son from the Dead, and on all the Privileges, and Hopes, we thereby enjoy. May I read *thy holy Word*, and endeavour to do good to *others* by my Discourse and Example, and labour to grow *wiser and better* by all my religious Advantages. In order to *that*, may thy *Grace* be sufficient for me, and may my defective Services be accepted thro' thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord!]

O Thou, that hearest Prayer, hear these my imperfect Petitions, humbly represented in thy *Son's Name*; by whose Gospel I have been instructed, enjoined, and encouraged thus to address Thee, in Behalf of Myself, and all my Fellow-Creatures.

OUR Father, which art in Heaven;—Hallowed be thy Name;—Thy Kingdom come;—Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven:—Give us this Day our daily Bread;—And forgive *us* our Trespases, as we forgive *them*, that trespass against *us*;—And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from Evil:—For thine is the *Kingdom*, and the *Power*, and the *Glory*, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communication of the Holy Ghost, be with *me* (and with *all* whom it is *my Duty* to remember in *my Prayers*) this Day [*or this Night*] and ever more. *Amen.*

At the Conclusion of our Devotions it will be very proper, and beneficial to add these important Words of the Apostle, as they contain a Summary of all the inestimable Blessings, which have been implored, and of all, which constitute the Happiness of a Christian.

AN EVENING PRAYER.

Adoration. | **A**lmighty God, the Author, and Support of all Nature. The Day is thine: The Night also is thine: The Darkness and Light are both *alike to Thee.*

Thanksgiving.

I approach thy Throne of Grace this Evening in the Name of Jesus Christ, the great Mediator, to return Thee unfeigned *Thanks* for thy Care and Goodness, vouchsafed to *me* through this Day, and that *I* am brought to the Conclusion of it in Comfort. *I* praise thee for the Health and Ease *I* have enjoyed, that *my* Wants have been supplied, and that *no Evil* hath befallen *me*.

*Confession, and
Petition for
Pardon.*

On a serious Review of this Day and *my* past Life, *I* see abundant Reason for daily Humiliation before Thee the holy Lord God, for *my* many Transgressions of thy righteous Commandments. *I* am sorry, and ashamed that *I* have made such *ungrateful* Returns for thy daily Goodness. But thou art gracious and merciful, and hast sent thine only Son into the World to make an Atonement for our Sins, to save us from Destruction, and to bring us into thy Favour. *I* desire to believe and trust in this all-sufficient *Saviour*, to give *myself* to Him, as the Lord, who bought *me*, and through *Him* to obtain the *Pardon* of all *my* Sins.

For Assistance.

May *I* be enabled for the future to behave as his Servant, "doing the Will of God from the Heart." May *I* labour and strive to *grow* in Knowledge, and to be holy in all Manner of Conversation. May thy *Grace* be sufficient for *me*, to assist *me* in every Trial and Affliction, and to prepare *me* for Death and Eternity.

For others.

Hear *my* Intercession for all Men, that thy Salvation may be known to *all* Nations, that *our* King and Country may be the Care of thy kind Providence; that Magistrates, Christian Ministers, Parents and Masters may *unite* their Endeavours to promote Piety, Righteousness, and Peace; and do thou, O Lord, prosper all such Attempts. Do Good to all *my* Relations and Friends, and afford seasonable *Relief* to all the afflicted in Mind, Body, or Estate.

*For Protection
and Rest.*

Encouraged by thy Goodness, and *my* Experience of thy fatherly Care *this* Day, and *all my* Days, *I* commit *myself* to thy Almighty Protection through the Night. May *I* rest safely, and be quiet from Fear of Evil. May *my* Thoughts be serious and devout, when *I* lie down; and, when *I* awake, may *I* still be
with

with Thee.—O thou Keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest, nor sleepest, be thou always *my* Guardian: And, when *I* lie down in the Grave, be *Thou* the Strength of *my* Heart, and *my* Portion for ever, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Evening let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

[*I thank Thee, O Lord, that I have enjoyed the Advantages of another Sabbath: May I be deeply sensible how important and valuable they are. Forgive me, merciful God, my many Failings and Imperfections, and that I have not better improved my Privileges, as a Christian, and as a Protestant. Be pleased to impress on my Heart what I have been hearing and reading this Day. May I carry the serious Remembrance of it through the whole Week, and shew, by a good and exemplary Behaviour, what happy Effects the religious Services of the Day have had upon me. May I be a Doer of the Word, that I may be blessed, and all my Attempts to serve and glorify thee be accepted through Jesus Christ!*]

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. See Page 5.

A MORNING PRAYER.

☞ This is designed principally for a Person in private; but may be used *occasionally* by a Family.

Thanksgiving. | **A** Lmighty and most merciful God, with *my* whole Heart *I thank* thee for *my* Preservation during the past Night, and for adding *another* Day to *my* Life, while so many are cut off unprepared, and unwarned.

*Confession and
Petition for
Pardon.*

It is of thy Mercies, O Lord, that *I* also am not consumed; For *mine* Iniquities have been *innumerable*; and shouldst Thou enter into Judgment with *me*, Thou wouldst be righteous, and *I* must be condemned, and miserable. But do Thou, O Lord, be merciful to *me* a Sinner, through thy Son Jesus Christ, the great Propitiation; “and let not *my* Sins “withhold good Things from *me* *.”

*Self-dedication
to God.*

To Thee, O Lord, and to thy Service, *I* here dedicate *myself* both Soul and Body, to promote thy Glory, and *my* own Salvation. *I* resolve, and will, by thy Grace, so endeavour to improve the Time, which thou shalt be pleased to grant *me*, that *I* may, every Day, increase in Holiness, and persevere in it to the End of *my* Life.

*Petition for
Assistance.*

Strengthen *me*, *I* beseech Thee, by thy Holy Spirit, without which, *I* am *unable* to fulfil these sincere Purposes. And secure *me* by thy Grace against the Snares and Temptations, to which *I am* daily exposed.

*Petition in Be-
half of others.*

Send thy glorious Gospel to the whole human Race, and give them the Love and Fear of Thee: Bless *my* Relations and Friends; Bless likewise those, who remember *me* in their Prayers; and those, who have desired *my* Prayers for *Them*.—Pardon *my* Enemies, and turn their Hearts; and grant to *all* whatsoever is needful or profitable, either for the Welfare of their Bodies, or the Salvation of their Souls.

*Petition for
God's Bless-
ing.*

Enable *me*, Lord of all Power and Goodness, faithfully to perform the several Duties belonging to *my* Station in this Life.—Prosper thou the Work of *my* Hands, and bless *my* honest Endeavours. Guard *my* Health, and Safety; and whatever *I* do, may *I* do it heartily, as to the Lord; that *I* may be an useful Member of Society, and a faithful Servant of Christ.—May *I* live all the Day long in thy Fear, under a Sense of thy Pre-

sence, in an humble Trust in thy fatherly Protection, and in a lively Hope of everlasting Glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning, let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

[*I thank Thee, O Lord, for setting apart a Day for the noble Employment of joining with my Fellow-Christians in the public Worship and Service of our Great Creator, and Redeemer.—Teach me to remember this thy Command; and to shew my Obedience, in devoutly attending on thy Worship, and fervently joining in the several Parts of it. Let thy Word, delivered and explained by the Mouth of thy Ministers, find a ready Admission into my Heart, and not be lost through Carelessness, or rendered fruitless by the vain Pursuits of the World. This I humbly beg for the Sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*]

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace of our Lord, &c.
See Page 5.

AN EVENING PRAYER.

Thanksgiving. | **M**OST gracious God, *I* humbly thank thee for having safely brought *me* to the Conclusion of this Day; and for all thy *past*, as well as *present* Mercies; but above all, for Jesus Christ thy Son, for his glorious Gospel, and the Hope of a far better Life in thy eternal Kingdom.

Confession. | *I* acknowledge, O Lord, that *I* am a *sinful* Creature; that *I* have made *very ungrateful* Returns to thine infinite Goodness, and often transgressed thy Commandments: For which, and for whatever Sins *I* have this Day committed in Thought, Word, or Deed, *I* desire to be sincerely penitent*.

* Here a short Pause may be made for Recollection, and *secret* Confession of the Sins and Failings of the Day:—But a *more particular* Confession may be made in *private*, either before or after Prayer, as we have Time for a *fuller* Self-Examination.

*Petition for
Pardon.*

Father of everlasting Compassion, pardon, for thy Son Jesus Christ's Sake, all *my* Sins both of *Omission*, and *Commission*. "*I have destroyed myself, but in Him is my Help*.*" *I* rely on *Him*, as *my* Saviour; *I* submit to *Him*, as *my* Lord; and *I* desire to comply with the reasonable and gracious Terms proposed in his Gospel.

*Petition for
Assistance.*

Grant *me*, O Lord, the *Assistance* of thy Grace to supply the Weakness of *my* Endeavours;—to reform *my* depraved Will;—to govern all *my* Affections;—and to live according to thy *holy Word*.

*Petition in Be-
half of others.*

Be merciful and gracious to the *whole Race* of Mankind; particularly those to whom *I* am more immediately related; as likewise to this Family. *I* beg thy *Blessing* on all those, who pray for *me*, or desire *my* Prayers for *them*; and particularly on the afflicted. Reconcile them, O Lord, to their Sufferings, and all of us to *Thyself*; and give *them*, and *me*, whatsoever thine infinite Wisdom knows to be necessary, both for our spiritual and temporal Welfare.

*For Rest and
Protection.*

I commit *myself* unto Thee, O God, this Night, beseeching thee to give *me* Rest, and to keep *me* in Safety: Or, if *my* Soul should be required of *me* before the Morning Light, receive *me* to thy Mercy, through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ, in whom thou art always well pleased. *Amen.*

On Sunday Evening, let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added to this Prayer.

[*I lament it, O Lord, as my Unhappiness, as well as my Fault, that I love thee no better; and I am grieved to think of my Coldness and Inattention, which has too often appeared during my Attendance on the solemn Service of this thy Day. Accept of such imperfect Offerings as I have made. Grant that I may meditate on thy Law with Profit and Delight; and that the good Seed sown may take deep Root in my Heart, and bring forth abundant Fruits; that so my Conversation may be*

* Hosea xiii. 9.

such as becometh the Follower of *my* blessed Instructor and Master, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*]

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c. See p. 5.

These Prayers are *regularly divided*; as such Divisions may be of very great Use, by preserving Order, and preventing Confusion in our Addresses to God; particularly in reminding us of what we *want*, and of what we *ought to ask*. It is therefore hoped, that the several *Divisions*, (or Heads) will be carefully observed, and imprinted in our Memories; with a View to which, *these Divisions* are inserted in the Margin on the Sides of these Prayers. By the Blessing of God on the *Use of these Means*, we may be enabled *in Time* to pursue the *same* Order and Method both Morning and Evening, in *our own* Words and Expressions; namely, in Thanksgivings and Petitions formed out of our *Hearts*. A Circumstance greatly to be *desired*, as it will form the Mind to an Habit of *regular* Prayer; but *this* can only be attained by a diligent Exercise of our Talents, which will be improved by devout and constant Practice.

The Use too of *these Divisions* may be extended still farther; as by this Method, such as are *young*, may happily become acquainted with the *Design*, and *Meaning* of what they repeat; so as *more early* in Life to acquire the inestimable Habit of *praying with the Understanding*, and performing to their Creator, in their *Youth*, a reasonable Service.

A short Prayer on going a Journey, to be united with any of the Morning Prayers.

I Commit myself, O Lord, to thy Protection, as I am now going a *Journey*, and humbly *pray*, that I may be kept from *every* Evil, to which I may be exposed; especially from the Evil of *Sin*;—that I may preserve a Sense of God and Religion on my Mind in *all* Places and Companies;—and take every Opportunity of performing religious Duties; particularly on thy *holy Day*;—and that I may return to my Habitation and Friends in Safety and Comfort, and find no Evil hath come nigh *them*, or *my Dwelling*.

A Thanksgiving for a safe Return from a Journey, to be united with any of the Evening Prayers.

I Thank thee, thou Almighty Guardian, for thy providential Care over me in my late *Journey*; that my Life and Limbs have been preserved; and that I am returned in *Safety*. I bless thee, that I see the Faces of my Relations and Friends again; and that *no Evil* hath come nigh *them*, or my *Dwelling*, during my Absence. I desire to retain a *Sense* of this thy Goodness on my Heart; and to shew forth thy *Praise* in my Life and Conversation.

N. B. In Case of Accidents a suitable Alteration must be made.

AN INTRODUCTORY PRAYER,

Which may be used before public Worship in Church, or before private Worship at Home.

GIVE me, O Lord, a deep Reverence of thy Presence; and grant me the important Aid of thy *Holy Spirit* to help my Infirmities; that, in *every* Attendance on thy Worship, I may aim at thy Glory, and obtain thy Blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A CONCLUDING PRAYER,

Which may be used after public or private Worship.

PARDON, O Lord, the Coldness of my Devotion, and the Wanderings of my Thoughts; graciously accept my *imperfect* Service; and enable me to grow *wiser* and *better* by every Attendance on thy Worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER to be used by a sick Person Morning and Evening.

Adoration. **O** Lord God Almighty, I am *fearfully* and *wonderfully* made, and all my Powers of *Body* and *Mind* were produced, and are supported by *Thee*. "Thou killest, and makest alive: thou woundest, and makest whole."

Confession

Confession and Petition for Pardon.

I humbly own, and reverence thy Hand in my *present Affliction*. I acknowledge, that thou art righteous in *all* that befalls me; for I have *sinned*; and thou chastenest me less, than *mine Iniquities* deserve. In Punishment thou shewest Mercy, continuest to me many Comforts, and givest me Hope of *that Pardon*, which I so much want, and at this Time earnestly intreat.

Petition for Improvement of Sickness.

I desire to search, and try my Ways, and turn unto the Lord by deep Humility, sincere Repentance, and Faith in the great Redeemer: And may the *Fruit of this* and every Affliction be, to take away Sin, and make my Heart better.

For the Restoration of Health.

I beseech Thee, O Lord, who healest, to direct me to, and prosper, *Means* for the Removal of my Disorder, and the Establishment of my Health; that I may yet be capable of glorifying Thee in my Station, and Relations, and, by further Services for Thee on Earth, be fitter for Immortality.

For a right Temper of Mind.

Support me, gracious God, that "my Soul may not be cast down, and disquieted within Me." Assist me to cherish penitent, believing, serious Thoughts, and Affections. Grant me such *Resignation to thy Will*, such Patience and Meekness towards Men, as my *divine Master* requireth, and as *He Himself* manifested, while he was a Sufferer on Earth. May I learn from what I now *feel* to *pity* all who are sick, in Pain, or otherwise afflicted, and do all in my Power to assist, and relieve them.

For Preparation for Death.

If by *this Affliction* thou intendest to bring me down to the Grave, *prepare* me, by thy Grace, for my *Removal* hence, and an *Entrance* on the unseen, eternal State: And may all the Sufferings of the *present Life* be the *Means* appointed to procure me a *Crown of Glory*; which is weighty, inconceivably valuable, and eternal*.

* See 2 Cor. iv. 17.

For the Morning.

[I *blefs* Thee, O Lord, that thou art giving me *another Day*. Grant me such Measures of Ease and Comfort, that I may improve it diligently by conversing with *Thee*, and my own Heart, *in Meditation and Prayer*, and be capable of enjoying the *Blessings*, which thou art pleased still to grant me.]

For the Evening.

[I *thank* thee, O Lord, for *any Degree* of Ease and Comfort, which I have *this Day* enjoyed. Grant me *this Night* such refreshing Rest, that I may be better able to discharge the Duties, and bear the Burdens of *another Day*, if thou shalt be pleased to add *another Day* to my Life. If my Eyes are kept *waking*, may my *Meditations on Thee* be comfortable, and useful to me.]

Pity my *Weakness*, merciful and heavenly Father, and hear my imperfect *Petitions*, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who was once "a Man of Sorrow," and is still "touched with the *Feeling of our Infirmities*:" To whom, "as our merciful *High Priest*," be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c. See Page 5.

A Prayer to be committed to Memory, and used by one, who continues long awake in the Night.

GREAT God, the *Darkness* hideth not from Thee, but the *Night* shineth as the Day: Thou art about my Path, and my Bed, and art acquainted with *all* my Ways and Thoughts*.

When thou keepest mine Eyes waking, I desire to lift them up to *Thee*, the Father of Lights; to *remember* Thee on my Bed, and to *meditate* on Thee in the Night-Watches: I beseech Thee to make thy Face shine on thy Servant, to gild the present dark Scene, to compose my Mind, and to banish every Fear from it: And may "my Thoughts, and Reflections on myself, *instruct me in the Night Season*," when others are asleep.

I desire to *recollect* and *acknowledge* thy constant Care and Goodness to me by Day and Night. I would now *commune*

* Psalm cxxxix. 2, & 3.

with my own Heart on my Bed, and *renew* my sincere Repentance for all my Sins; for which I might justly have been banished to eternal Darknefs and Misery. I desire to look unto *Jesus*, the Sun of Righteousness, who endured the Cross for my Sake, and trust in *Him*, who is able to save to the uttermost. I solemnly *give up* myself to thy Service and Disposál, and desire humbly to acquiesce in every painful and disagreeable Circumstance.—I lift up my Heart in *grateful* Acknowledgments for all thy *Patience* with me, and *Goodness* to me.

Support me under every Burthen and Infirmary: When I walk in Darknefs, be *thou* a Light about me: Graciously animate, and comfort me by the Views of that *better* World, where there is no Night, or Darknefs; but “*the Lord shall be the everlasting Light of his Servants, and the Days of their Mourning shall be ended.*” (Isai. lx. 20.)—And oh! that I may *learn* from my own Feelings how to *pity* the sick and the afflicted; those, who have *painful* Days and sleepless Nights; those, whose *Age* and *Infirmities* cause their Days and Nights to pass on *heavily*; and those, who are under any Kind of *Distress*, or *Trial*. And may *all the Sufferings* of the present Life work out for *them*, and for *me*, the most solid, substantial, and lasting *Happiness*.—These Blessings I humbly ask in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c. See Page 5.

Concerning EJACULATIONS.

We should accustom ourselves to ejaculatory Prayers. “For which Purpose,” says Mr. *Nelson*, “neither a *Church*, nor a *Closet* are wanted, as this Sort of Devotion may be exercised at any Time, at any Employment, nay even in Conversation.” * Pious *Ejaculations*, (or *sudden* Petitions) are very useful, as the *best Means* of guarding against the *first* Assaults of Temptations, and of keeping up *constant* Communion with God. Every *Sentence* of the Lord’s Prayer may be considered, and used, as a *distinct* Ejaculation; as may every Petition, or Thanksgiving in the Bible, (or in any Prayer) if it suits our *particular* Case.—

* In *NELSON’S Practice of true Devotion*, in Relation to the *End*, as well as the *Means* of Religion [Price 2s. 6d.] the *Use of Ejaculations* is particularly shewn and exemplified. See Page 177 of the Sixteenth Edition.

We

We should endeavour therefore to read the Word of God carefully, and repeatedly; and then we shall never want suitable *Ejaculations*, never be at a Loss for Expressions to carry on a Correspondence with Heaven.—In cases of *Surprise*, or imminent *Danger*, where there can be *no Time* for Premeditation, *Nature* directs every Man (even the most profligate) to utter *sudden Ejaculations*, such as “Lord have *Mercy* upon me!”—“Lord, *help* me!” and the like.

*A MORNING, and EVENING PRAYER for a Child
from 4 or 5, to 9 or 10 Years old.*

MERCIFUL God, and Father, *who art in Heaven*, look down I beseech Thee on an *helpless Child*: Incline my Heart to remember, love and serve Thee; and keep me from every *evil Thought, Word and Deed*. Enable me to do to *others*, as I would they should do to *me*. May I grow in *Wisdom*, as I grow in *Stature*, and be in Favour with *God and Man*. Make me dutiful to my Parents, loving to all my Relations, obedient to my Teachers, and always in a Disposition to hear Advice, and receive Instruction. Preserve me this Day (or this Night) from every Danger, and grant all my humble Petitions for the Sake of Jesus Christ my Saviour, in whom alone I can be accepted.

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c. See Page 5.

*A Prayer for a Person unavoidably detained from public Worship on
a Sunday, either Morning, or Evening.*

O Lord, the great and holy God, who fillest Heaven and Earth with thy Presence, look down, I beseech Thee, on thine unworthy Servant in my *present Circumstances*.

This is *the Day*, which thou hast appointed to be kept *holy* by Rest from our Labours, and by Acts of religious Worship. ~~thou~~ ^{thou} knowest that “I love the Habitation of thy House,” and should be *glad and thankful* to join with thy Worshipers there. I durst not presume to ask thy Favour in my present *Absence* from it, did I *willingly* forsake it: But, as by thy Providence I am *necessarily* and *unavoidably* detained from it, I intreat thy Favour with my *whole Heart*, and beg thine *Assistance* in

in my *private* Reading, Meditation, and Prayers. May my *Thoughts* be serious and devout, and the Desire of my Soul be to *Thee* through this sacred Day.

Supply the Want of the *public Means of Grace* by the Teaching of thy Word, and Spirit. Bring to my Remembrance, and impress on my Heart, what I have formerly *heard*, and *read*, of the great Things of Religion and Salvation, that my *Soul* may be improved, and my Graces, and good Dispositions may be confirmed, and strengthened.

Command *thy Blessing* on *all* thy worshipping Servants; and on the Labours of thy Ministers; and let that *Blessing* rest on *me* also, who desire to join with *them* in Spirit *now*; and hope *at Length* to join the general Assembly in *Heaven* in ascribing, without Interruption, Glory, and Honour, and Praise, to *Him*, who sitteth on the Throne of supreme Majesty, and Dominion, and to the *Lamb*, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c. See Page 5.

Concerning SELF-EXAMINATION.

I would recommend it to those, who use these Prayers, that, *before* their EVENING DEVOTION, they spend a few Minutes in *examining* themselves by the Prayer, which they used in the *Morning*; and seriously inquire how far their *Temper* and *Conduct* through the Day have been agreeable to the *Petitions* offered, and the *Profession* they have made of Gratitude and Devotedness to God in the *Morning*? how far they have *really* endeavoured to *be*, and *do* that, which they *prayed*, that God would *enable* them to *be*, and *do*.—Without such a daily *Endeavour* their *Prayers* are Formality, Insincerity, and an Abomination to the Lord.

A short Form of SELF-EXAMINATION.

DUTY to GOD.

1. **D**O I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? and does such *Belief* influence my *Heart* and *Life*?
2. Have I *omitted*, or carelessly performed, my religious Duties? Or have I forgotten God in the *Intervals* of them?
3. What

3. What *Sins* have I this Day *committed* in Thought, Word, or Deed? Have I endeavoured to keep up a Sense of God's *Presence* and *Providence* all the Day long; to approve myself in *his Sight*, and promote *his Glory* in all my Actions?

DUTY to NEIGHBOURS.

1. Have I in any Respect *injured my Neighbour* in Body, Property, or Character?

2. Am I desirous of his *Welfare*, both spiritual and temporal? And, if I have *injured* him, am I desirous of making him *Reparation*, as far as in my Power?

3. Do I sincerely *forgive* all Injuries received from Him, as I humbly hope that God through Christ will *forgive me*?

DUTY to OURSELVES.

1. Do I strive to *subdue* all my irregular Desires, and evil Affections?

2. And am I *leading* a sober, righteous, and godly Life? Or am I *not*?

3. Am I more intent on securing my *eternal Happiness*, than on any of the Pursuits, or Advantages of *this World*? And am I *now* in that State, in which I should *chuse* to be found at the Approach of Death?

At the Time of SELF-EXAMINATION *more particularly* (though not at that Time *only*) it may be very proper to *meditate* on the following Passage from Bishop Wilson's most useful Treatise, intitled, *The Knowledge and Practise of Christianity made easy to the meanest Capacities*. "Every well-disposed Christian (says the good Bishop, Page 243 of the *Eleventh Edition*) would *do well to consider* what a great deal of Good He may do by such *Hints*, as these following, to his Children, and his Servants—The great Corruption of human Nature.—The Misery of Man, and his Danger through Sin.—The utter Impossibility of *saving* Ourselves without a Redeemer.—The great Love of God for his poor Creatures, in sending his Son to *redeem* them;—That all our Hopes of Pardon and Happiness are from God's Mercy through Christ our Saviour.—That, as ever we hope for Happiness, we must live according to his Doctrine and Example; endeavouring to grow every Day better, without ascribing any Thing to *Ourselves*,
" but

but all to the *Grace of God*: Which Grace is sufficient to enable us to overcome all the Difficulties we meet with.— If we *add to these* the *Certainty* of a future Life, and a future Judgment;—and the Rewards and Punishments of another World, &c.” Such *Hints, as these*, seriously, and often repeated, will, through the Grace of God, awaken the most careless and ignorant, and force them to *ask*, “ What must I do to be saved ?” (Acts xvi. 30.)

Concerning GRACE at MEALS.

Bishop *Gibson* * has observed, that “ there is a *Kind of Family Devotion*, which is attended with no Manner of Difficulty, and the *Neglect* of which admits of no Excuse; that is, Asking of God a *Blessing* on our Meals *before* we sit down, and *thanking* him for his Goodness and Bounty, when we rise from them. This is what is commonly called *Grace before, and after Meat*.—A Practice so easy, and withal so useful, and so natural, that the *Families*, in which it is *not* kept up, seem to have *no Concern* to maintain *even a Face* of Religion.”— *Many* in this present Age,” says Bishop *Wilson*, “ go to their Meals, as Beasts to their Fodder, without any Thought of God; and *others* say *Grace* after so slight, and negligent a Manner, as makes it as *sinful*, as the Omission.”—That the *most Ignorant* therefore may not want *proper Words* for this Purpose, I shall add the following short Forms.

GRACE before MEALS.

BLESS, O Lord, these thy good Creatures to our Use; and by them fit us for thy Service, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

GRACE after MEALS.

ACCEPT our *Thanks*, O Lord, for *these*, and all thy other Mercies; and may we shew our Gratitude by our Lives, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

If *He*, who asks the Blessing of Almighty God, or returns *Thanks* to Him, in the Name of the *rest*, should presume to do it in an *irreverent* Manner, the *Grace* should be repeated in our own Minds, as if *Nothing* had passed at Table.

* See his *Sinfulness of neglecting, and profaning the Lord's Day* (Price Three Half-pence) a very useful little Tract for the *well-disposed* to give away.

Short Remarks on devotional Writers, and the Necessity of Prayer.

As *some*, who may see this *little* Collection, may wish to be supplied with a *larger*, I thought it might be acceptable to mention, in that View, JENKS's Devotions, (Price 3s. 6d.) well suited both for Families, and the States and Exigencies of particular Christians. And particularly MERIVALE's daily Devotions for the Closet *. There are excellent *Materials* in both these Writers; but is it not to be wished, that their *Prayers* had been *more clearly divided*; and that the *Divisions* had been marked in the Margin, *visible* to those of the meanest Capacity?—Bishop GIBSON, in his Prayers for Morning and Evening, has carefully guarded against this *too general* Defect in Forms of Prayer. The *above-mentioned* Books are not only useful at the *stated* Seasons of Devotion, but may be *profitably read* at any Intervals of Leisure, in the same Manner, as *other* religious Books: Or any *single* Petition, which particularly *suits* us, may be *meditated on*, and presented by Way of *Ejaculation*. I would not, however, by the Mention of *these*, be supposed to dictate to any, whose Education may enable them to make a proper Choice, nor wish to exclude *any other* Book, which may be equally pious and edifying.

It cannot be *supposed*, that Persons, who use *these*, (or any *other* Forms of Prayer) are under a Necessity of *confining* themselves to *every Expression, and Sentiment* in them. Any WORDS or SENTENCES may be *added, omitted, or changed*, (as they see Occasion) to *suit* their present State, their own Judgment of Things, and the Circumstances of themselves, or Families: For it can never be *expected*, that the same *Method, or Form* of Prayer should suit *all* Persons; or even the *same* Person at *all* Times. It is impossible that a *serious Christian* can present to God in *secret Prayer* all his Wants, all his Sorrows, all his dearest and most important Concerns, in a few *general* Sentences precomposed by *another*.

Prayer may be considered as the *Root*, from which all religious and moral Duties derive their *Nourishment*: and those, who do

* Merivale's daily Devotions are very elegant, and striking; printed for Buckland in Pater-Noster Row. Price 2s.

not pray, can have no Religion*. It does not invalidate this Assertion to say, that then great Numbers have no Religion. So much more the Pity. They may have some Virtue, be moral and useful Members of Society; but what Idea can be formed of Religion without Prayer? To forget God is the Character of the worst Men in Scripture. "It is impossible," says the judicious Mr. Orton, "that a Man should be good, who neglects "secret Prayer; and next to impossible, that He should "ever become so. The Neglect of Prayer shews, that he has no "right Notions of GOD, no Sense of his Presence, no hearty "Desires of his Mercy, no solid Hope of his Favour†." It is much to be wished therefore, that those, who have hitherto neglected daily to remember God in Prayer, would firmly resolve no longer to neglect so important a Duty. And the only sure Way to keep up Devotion, both in secret, and in a Family, is to fix for that End the most convenient Hours both Morning and Evening, and resolutely to observe them. "When the "Times of Prayer are thus settled," says Bishop Gibson, in his Exhortation to Family Prayer, "it will be accounted a Part of "the Business of the Day; and as the Neglect of it occasions an "habitual Forgetfulness of God, and the Things of another Life, "so the daily Practice of it (if it is not suffered to dwindle into "a mere lifeless Form) keeps up in Families a Face and Spirit "of Religion, and is the best Means, that Fathers and Mothers, "Masters and Mistresses can use, to preserve in themselves, their "Children and Servants, such a religious and heavenly Frame "of Mind, as becomes a Society of Christians." "The daily "Exercise of Devotion," says the same Bishop, in his little

* Archbishop Sharp confirms this Assertion: "It is impossible," says he, "for any Man to be good, who lives without constant Prayer.—Whoever "is good at the present, yet if he disuse himself in this Point, he will not "long continue good. Whoever makes a Conscience of praying frequently "and heartily, and continues so to do, though he cannot at present be said "to be a good Man, yet it is impossible for Him long to continue bad: He "will certainly at last get the Victory over his Lusts, and evil Habits."

Archbishop Sharp's *Persuasive to Prayer*,
Vol. I. of his Works in 12mo.

† See Orton's excellent Discourses on secret and Family Worship, and the religious Observation of the Lord's Day; (Page 37 of the second Edition, lately published, Price 3s.) a Book which well deserves the frequent and attentive Perusal of every serious Christian.

*Treatise on the Sinfulness of profaning the Lord's Day, " keeps
 " the Soul in an habitual Preparation to move towards Heaven,
 " and by this Exercise, the Thoughts are more easily disentangled
 " from our worldly Cares, and Diversions, and more readily
 " framed to attend the Work at the proper Seasons of Devotion,
 " whether in public, or in private."*

P R A Y E R S

By Bishop WILSON, Bishop GIBSON, and
 Dr. WATTS.

*The small Additions made to any of these Prayers by Dr. Ston-
 house are put between Hooks, [thus] and marked with an S.*

IN THE MORNING.

[By the late Bishop of Sodor and Mann, Dr. WILSON.]

As for me, and my House, said the brave *Joshua*, we will serve the Lord. (*Joshua xxxiv. 15.*)—*This ought to be the sincere Resolution and constant Practice of every Christian Master of a Family.—Without Family Prayer none can reasonably expect to have dutiful Children, or faithful Servants; nor justly hope to have God's Blessing in this World, or in the World to come.*

MORNING PRAYER for a Family.

Let one of the Family read slowly what follows, the rest seriously attending.

As the Lord hath brought us safely to the Beginning of this Day, let us give him Thanks for this, and for all his Mercies: Let us pray, that we may live in the Fear of Him, and continue in Love and Charity with all Mankind; that his Holy Spirit may direct and rule our Hearts, teaching us what to do, and what to avoid; that the Grace of God may be ever with us to support us in all our Dangers, and carry us through all Temptations; that He may
blefs

bleſs all our honeſt Endeavours, and make us content with what his Providence ſhall order for us ;—and that we may continue his faithful Servants this Day, and all the Days of our Life: For all which Bleſſings let us now devoutly pray.

Thankſgiving. **M**OST gracious and merciful God, by whom the World is governed, and preſerved, we give Thee *humble Thanks* for thy fatherly Care over us, in preſerving us from the Dangers of the Night paſt, and in bringing us ſafe to ſee another Day.

We gratefully acknowledge our Obligations to Thee for all the *Neceſſaries, Conveniencies, and Comforts* of our Life ;—for all the *Means* of our Well-being *here*, and of our everlaſting Happineſs *hereafter*.

We give Thee *Thanks* for the Light of thy Goſpel, and the Help of thy Grace, and for the *Promise* Thou haſt made us of Pardon and Forgiveneſs through thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, on our ſincere Repentance, and Amendment.

S.

Confefſion. [We acknowledge, with humble and contrite Hearts, that we have not been duly grateful for theſe thy *Mercies*, but have in innumerable Inſtances neglected our Duty, and done Evil in the Sight of the holy and heart-ſearching God.]

Petition. [Pardon, we beſeech thee, O Lord, all our Sins, through the Riches of thy Grace in giving thy Son to be a Sacrifice for our Sins, to riſe again for our Juſtification, and to raiſe us to a *new* and *divine* Life.

Give us *Grace*, that we may for the future walk in thy Sight ;—make a Conſcience of all our Ways ;—and, fearing to *offend* Thee, may never fall into the Sins, of which we have repented.

Enable us to reſiſt and overcome the Temptations of the World, the Fleſh, and the Devil ;—to follow the Motions of thy good Spirit ;—to be ſerious and holy in our Lives ;—true and juſt in our Dealings ;—watchful over our Thoughts, Words, and Actions ;—diligent in our Buſineſs, and temperate in all Things.

Give

Give us *Grace* honestly to improve all the Talents which thou hast committed to our Trust;—and may no *worldly Business*, no *worldly Pleasures*, divert us from the Concerns of the *Life to come*!

May *thy Blessing* be on our Persons, Labours, Substance; and on all, that belongs to us!—And may we never undertake any Work, which we dare not beg *Thee* to prosper!

May *thy Grace* defend us in all Assaults of our Enemies.—And grant, that *this* Day we fall into no Sin, neither run into any Kind of Danger; but that all our Doings may be ordered by thy Governance, to do always *what* is righteous in thy Sight.

Give us, gracious God, what is needful for us, and *Grace* not to abuse thy Favours:—Give us, we beseech Thee, contented Minds;—and make us ever mindful of the Wants, and Sorrows of others.

Give us, in *this* World, the Knowledge of thy Truth, and in the World *to come* Life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

S.

[Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort, as we are favoured, through thy Goodness, with *another* Sabbath, a Day of holy Rest and Worship, may it be *sanctified* with the greatest Care and Seriousness by us, as Christian Families. May we *love* thy House, engage in thy public Service with all Attention and Pleasure, worship Thee in Spirit and in Truth, “and receive with Meekness thy Word, which is able to save our Souls.” May the *whole* Day be so spent, that it may contribute to our increasing Knowledge, Piety, and Comfort, and greater Fitness for future Glory, through Jesus Christ.]

O Thòu, &c.—Our Father, &c.—May the Grace of our Lord, &c. See Page 5.

IN THE EVENING.

[By the same BISHOP.]

*Let one of the Family read slowly what follows,
the rest seriously attending.*

As by the Favour of God, we are come to the Evening of this Day; and we are so much nearer our End, let us seriously consider this, and pray to God to prepare us for the Hour of Death. —Let us with penitent Hearts beseech him to pardon our Offences, and to deliver us from the Evils, which we have justly deserved:—Let us resolve to amend whatever we have done amiss, and pray to God, that his Grace may keep us from returning to those Sins, of which we have repented: We shall then be safe under his Protection, who alone can defend us from the Dangers of the Night: For all which Blessings let us now devoutly pray.

EVENING PRAYER for a Family.

Thanksgiving. | **O** Lord and heavenly Father, we acknowledge thy great Goodness to us, in sparing us when we deserve Punishment;—in giving us the Necessaries of *this* Life, and in setting before us the Happiness of a *better*.

S.

Confession. | [We are truly sorry for the Errors and Sins of this Day, and our past Lives. We are grieved, that we have so often forgotten thy Presence, Authority, and Goodness; and have not been more solicitous to obtain thy Approbation, and live to thy Glory.]

Petitions. | *Merciful God,* pardon our Offences, correct and amend what is amiss in us, that as we grow in Years, we may grow in Grace, and the nearer we come to our latter End, the better we may be prepared for it.

In the Midst of *Life* we are in *Death*. Lord, grant, that *this Thought*, and a due Sense of our Frailty, may make us careful how we live, that we may escape the bitter Pains of eternal Misery.

B

Take

Take from us all Ignorance, Hardness of Heart, and too much Carefulness for the Things of this Life.

Make us an Household fearing Thee, O God, submitting ourselves to thy good Pleasure, and putting our *whole* Trust in thy Mercy.

Give us a true Knowledge of *Ourselves*;—of the Corruption of our Nature; and the Necessity of thy gracious Help to save us from Ruin.

And may the Spirit of Christ ever live, and rule in us, possessing our Souls with a sincere Love of *Thee*, O God, with an earnest Desire to please Thee, and with a Dread of offending Thee! Sanctify us wholly, we beseech Thee, that our Spirits, Souls, and Bodies, may be preserved blameless unto the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Continue to *us*, and to *all* Christian Churches, the Means of Grace and Salvation; and may the *saving* Truths of the Gospel be published and received in all the World.

Forgive all, who have injured us; and forgive our many Offences against our Neighbour.

May God, whose Kingdom ruleth over all, *blefs* our gracious King, and such as are put in Authority under him, that *they* may govern with Truth, and Justice, and that *we*, whose Duty it is to *honour* and *obey*, may do it for Conscience-sake.

Defend us from all Adversities, which may happen to *our Bodies*, and from all evil Thoughts, which may assault and hurt *our Souls*;—and prepare us to receive with an humble Resignation whatever thy Providence shall think best for us.

Finally, we beseech Thee, to defend us from all Perils and Dangers of this Night; and give us *Grace*, that we may *lead* and *end* our Lives in thy Faith and Fear, and to thy Glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

On Sunday Evening, let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

S.

[Accept, thou God of all Grace, our thankful Acknowledgments for the Privileges of thy Day, and House. Mercifully forgive *the Iniquities of our holy Things*: (Exod. xxviii. 38.) Write thy Commandments on our Hearts:

And

And may we shew by our holy, unblameable, useful Lives, that we have not attended thy Worship *this Day in vain*. May we behave through the *following Week*, and all future Life, worthy the great Advantages, with which thou art indulging us, and be growing more *prepared* for the Services and Enjoyments of thy heavenly Temple, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5,

I N T H E M O R N I N G.

[By the late Bishop of Sodor and Mann, Dr. WILSON.
See his Treatise intituled, The Knowledge and Practice of Christianity made easy to the meanest Capacities.]

Consider, that many are the evil Consequences of going without committing ourselves to God into a World full of Temptations and Dangers, which we can neither foresee nor escape:—Whoever daily considers this, and the Mischiefs which may follow, will never fail to pray to God for his Guidance, Protection, and Blessing every Morning.

A M O R N I N G P R A Y E R for a Person in private

Thanksgiving. | **B**LESSED be the Lord for his *Mercies* renewed unto me every Morning; for the *Preservation and Refreshment* of the Night past, and all the Favours I *daily* receive from Thee, my heavenly Father, and constant Benefactor.

Petitions. | Gracious God, continue to me *these*, and *all other* thy Blessings, so long, and in such a Measure, as shall be most for thy Glory, and my Salvation.

Possess my Soul, I beseech Thee, with such a Sense of thy Goodness to *me*; especially in the Gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, and of my Dependence on *Thee*; that it may be my Delight, as it is my Interest and Duty, to serve and obey Thee.

But that I may serve Thee with a quiet Mind, *forgive* me all my Sins, I beseech Thee, for thy Son's Sake, and withhold the Judgments, of which my Conscience is *afraid*.

S.

[For I *acknowledge* my Sins before Thee with Shame and Sorrow; sensible that they are innumerable, and aggravated by all the Favours and Privileges I have enjoyed.—Oh! pardon and deliver me from the dreadful *Consequences* of them!]

Keep it ever in the Heart of thy Servant, that it is an evil Thing and bitter, to *forsake, and offend the Lord*. And above all Things, *keep me from wilful and deliberate Sins*, that I may never *grieve thy holy Spirit*, nor provoke Thee to leave me to *Myself*.

Let thy restraining Grace preserve me *this Day* from the Temptations of the *World, the Flesh, and the Devil*;—that I may fall into no Sin, nor run into any Kind of Danger;—but that all my Doings may be ordered by *Thee*, that I may do always *what* is righteous in thy Sight!—and that I may live, and act, as having *Thee*, O God, the constant Witness of all my *Thoughts, Designs, Words, and Actions*.

May I never render myself, by new Sins, unworthy of thy Guidance and Protection!—Suffer me not to go astray; or bring me back by such Ways, as to *Thee* shall seem best.

May I love *Thee* with all my Heart, and all *Mankind*, as my Brethren!—And may I ever have this sure *Proof* of Love abiding in me, that I study to please Thee, and to keep thy Commandments!—Particularly that I forgive, love, and do Good to my Neighbours, as becomes a Follower of Jesus Christ!

Assist me, by thy Grace, faithfully and diligently to perform all the Duties of my Calling; to be honest in all my Concerns with others; and *thankfully* to receive, and *patiently* to bear, whatever thy Providence shall order for me.

Preserve me from an *idle and useless* Life; ever remembering, *that the Night of Death cometh when no Man can work*:—And that *now* is the Time, in which to provide for Eternity. And grant, O Lord, that no worldly Pleasure,

no

no worldly Business, may ever make me *lose the Sight of Death, and the future eternal World.* May thy Spirit lead me by the Thoughts of Death to be truly and sincerely good:—to mortify all *Pride and Vanity,—Covetousness, Hatred, Envy, and Malice;*—to be *serious, sober, and watchful* while I continue in this *State of Trial!* And thus may I be prepared for the Joys, and Glories of thine heavenly Kingdom, through thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning subjoin the following Collect for the 13th Sunday after Trinity, to which there is a suitable Addition of a few Words.

[Almighty and merciful God, of whose only Gift it cometh, that thy *faithful* People do unto thee true and laudable Service, grant, I beseech thee, that I may *so faithfully* serve thee in *this* Life, so spend *this holy Day* in the Exercises of Piety and Devotion, *hear* thy Word with so much *Attention*, and *pray* with so much *Fervour*, that I fail not *finally* to attain the Blessings thou hast promised to *those*, who love, and serve Thee, through the Merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*]

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

IN THE EVENING.

[By the same BISHOP.]

Every thoughtful Christian will take Care to make his Peace with God, before he goes to sleep; and put himself under God's Protection every Evening, that he may be safe from Fear of Evil.

AN EVENING PRAYER, for a Person
in private.

Thanksgiving. | **M**OST gracious and merciful God, I give Thee *Thanks*, that it hath pleased Thee to add *another Day* to the Years of my Life; and that none of thy Judgments, to which for my Sins I am justly liable, have fallen upon me.

Accept, O Lord, of my unfeigned *Thanks*, for this thy constant Care over me:—for delivering me from the Dan-

Dangers of an evil World, and for the *many* and *undeserved* Blessings bestowed on me, Day after Day.

S.

Confession. | I *confess* before Thee with unfeigned Humiliation my shameful Ingratitude for these Blessings, and acknowledge the many Sins, which I have committed, by which I have offended thy Majesty, and wronged my own Soul. Adored be thy *Patience and Goodness*, that they have not prevented Thee from bringing me safe to the *Evening of this Day*.

Petitions. | O God, infinite in Mercy, *pardon* my Sins of the *Day past*, whether in Thought, Word, or Deed, which I have committed through my own Negligence, Weakness, and Frailty; and grant that they may never rise up in Judgment against me.

Give me *true* Repentance towards *Thee*, and a *lively Faith* in our Lord Jesus Christ, that I may have a cheerful Confidence in the Continuance of thy Favour.

Make me truly sensible of the Weakness and Corruption of my Nature; and the *Need* I have of thy gracious Help, that I may pray for it continually, and improve it faithfully.

May I ever make a *right* Use of the Time, which thy Goodness shall yet vouchsafe me, and never dare to abuse thy Patience and Long-Suffering.

Make me ever sensible of my *latter End*, that Death may not overtake me *unprepared*;—And in the Hour of Death, and in the Day of Judgment, good Lord, *deliver* me.

For Rest and Protection. | O God, all powerful, take me *this Night* under thy Protection:—Preserve me from the Dangers of it: Let my fatigued Nature be refreshed with easy and quiet Sleep: and by thy Grace and Providence, bring me *at last* through all the Trials and Temptations of this World to a blessed End; that I may *die* in Peace, *rest* in Hope, and *rise* in Glory, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Evening add the following Collect; Part of which is taken from that for the second Sunday in Advent.

[Lord,

[Lord, I beseech Thee, mercifully to receive *these* Prayers, and *those* also, which I have *this Day* offered to thee in the public Congregation, and have Compassion on my Infirmities, that my Blindness and Unworthiness may not deprive me of the Advantage of them: And grant, I beseech thee, that I may in such wise mark, learn, and inwardly digest what I have this Day heard, that by Patience and Comfort of thy holy Word, I may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed Hope of everlasting Life, which thou hast given us in thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.]

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See page 5.

A MORNING PRAYER.

To be used, as there is Occasion, by one Person, in private, or by a Family; changing *we* for *I*, *us* for *me*, &c.

[By the late Bishop of London, Dr. GIBSON. See his little Tract, intitled, *An Exhortation to Family Prayer*. Price 4d.]

Acknowledgment of
God's Mercy and Pre-
servation; especially in
the Night past.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, in whom I live, move, and have my Being, and whose Mercy is over all thy Works; I thy needy Creature, in a thankful Sense of thy good Providence over me, render Thee my humblest Praises for thy Preservation of me from the Beginning of my Life to this Day. Blessed be thy holy Name for the continual Protection of thy Hand, by which I have been defended amidst the Changes and Chances of this mortal Life, and kept and delivered from innumerable Dangers, and particularly from the Terrors, and evil Accidents of the past Night. To thy watchful Providence I wholly owe it, [that no Evil hath come nigh me, or my Dwelling, but that I have enjoyed quiet and refreshing Sleep, and am brought in Safety to the Beginning of this Day*.] For these, and all thy other

B 4

Mercies,

* When there have been Disturbances of any Kind in the Night, instead of what is above between the Hooks, the following Words may be used; that, notwithstanding my Fears and Dangers, I am brought in Safety to the Beginning of this Day.

Mercies, *my Soul* doth *blefs*, and *magnify* thy glorious Name; humbly beseeching Thee to accept this *my* Morning Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving, for *his* Sake, who lay down in the Grave, and rose again for *me*, thy Son, *my* only Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Dedication of Soul
and Body to God's
Service [with a Con-
fession of Sins] and
a Resolution to be
growing daily in
Goodness.

AND since it is of thy Mercy, gra-
cious Father, that *another* Day is
added to *my* Life; I here dedicate both
my Soul and Body to Thee, and thy Ser-
vice, to promote thy Glory, and *my* own
Salvation, in a sober, righteous, and
godly Life.

S.

[I sincerely lament *my* many Transgressions against Thee, would be deeply *humbled* for them before Thee, and earnestly intreat thy *Forgiveness* of them.]

I now, as in thy Presence, *renounce* the Devil and all his Works, the Vanities of this wicked World, and all the sinful Lusts of the Flesh, desiring nothing so much as to serve Thee *faithfully* all the Days of *my* Life. And I sincerely *resolve* so to improve the Time, which thou shalt be pleased to grant *me* in this World, that I may every Day become a better Christian and persevere in Holiness and Righteousness unto the End. In which *Resolutions* do thou, merciful God, confirm and strengthen *me*; and especially this Day keep it stedfastly in the Purpose of *my* Heart to perform them, that as I grow in Age, "I may grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of *my* Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." *Amen.*

For Grace to ena-
ble me to perform
that Resolution.

BUT, Lord, thou knowest the Weak-
ness and Corruption of *my* Nature,
and the manifold Temptations, which I
daily meet with; I therefore humbly
beseech Thee to have Compassion on *my* Infirmities, and to
give *me* the constant Assistance of thy Holy Spirit; that I may
effectually be restrained from Sin, and excited to *my* Duty.
And, when thou seest me giving Way to any Temptation,
"suffer me not to be tempted above what I am able," but
stretch out thy *helping* Hand to save and deliver *me*. Im-
print

print on *my* Heart such a Dread of thy Judgments, and such a Love of thy Goodness towards *me*, as may make *me* both afraid, and ashamed to offend Thee; and above all keep up in *my* Mind a lively Remembrance of that *great Day*, in which *I* must give a strict Account of *my* Thoughts, Words, and Actions, and, according to the Works done in the Body, be eternally rewarded or punished by *Him*, whom Thou hast appointed Judge of Quick and Dead, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Grace to guide
and keep me in the
following Day.*

[*I*N particular, that *I* may then be able to give Account of *this Day*; grant *me* Grace to have *Thee*, and thy Law before *my* Eyes, that *I* may walk in it according to thy Will, with Watchfulness and Circumspection. Keep *me* sober and temperate in *my* Meat and Drink, and diligent in the Calling and Profession, which thy Providence hath appointed *me*. Grant *me* Patience under any Affliction thou shalt see fit to lay upon *me*, and a Mind always contented with *my* present Condition. Give *me* Grace to be just and upright in all *my* Dealings, quiet and peaceful among my Neighbours, full of Compassion towards the Needy and Afflicted, and ever ready to do good to all Men, according to the Abilities and Opportunities which thou shalt give *me*: That so walking *faithfully* before Thee all *my* Days, and being found *watching* whenever *my* appointed Time shall come, *I* may, from a Life of Righteousness, be translated to a Life of Glory, through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ *my* only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

*For God's Blessing,
on the Business
of the Day.*

[*A*ND now *I* am entering on the Business of the Station wherein thy Providence hath placed *me*, *I* humbly beg *thy Blessing* this Day on *my* honest Designs and Undertakings. Direct *me* in all *my* Ways, and prosper the Work of *my* Hands.]

And as *I* desire to walk in a *constant* Sense of thy All-seeing Providence, so let the same good Providence watch over *me*, and preserve my Going-out and Coming-in. Defend *me* from all Dangers and Adversities, and be graciously pleased to take *me*, and all Things belonging to *me*,

into thy fatherly Care and Protection. These Things, O Lord, and whatever else thou shalt see necessary and convenient, either for *my* Soul, Body, or Estate, *I* humbly beg of Thee, for the Sake of thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning, let what is here put between the Hooks [thus] be added, and what is between the Hooks in the above Petition, for God's Blessing on the Business of the Day, be omitted.

[AND now *I* am going to the Place of thy *public* Worship, *I* beseech thee let thy Holy Spirit accompany *me*, and make *me* devout, serious, and attentive. Raise *my* Mind from the Thoughts of this World, to the Consideration of the next, that *I* may join fervently in the *Prayers and Praises* of thy Church, and listen to *my* Duty with an honest Heart, in order to practise it. And give *me* Grace to dedicate this Day, as thou hast appointed *me*, to thy Service, and the Care of *my* Soul. Direct *me* in all *my* Ways, and guide *my* Feet in thy Paths.]

O Thou, &c. — Our Father, &c. — May the Grace of our Lord, &c. — See Page 5.

AN EVENING PRAYER,

To be used, as there is Occasion, by one Person in private, or by a Family.

[By Bishop GIBSON.]

*Confession of Sins,
and a Petition for
Contrition and
Pardon.*

MOST gracious and merciful God, who art of purer Eyes, than to behold Iniquity, and has *promised* Mercy and Forgiveness to all them, who *confess*, and *forsake* their Sins; *I* come before Thee in an humble Sense of *my* own Unworthiness, acknowledging *my* manifold Transgressions of thy righteous Laws, in Thought, Word, and Deed. *I* have every Day been doing those Things which Thou hast *forbidden*, and leaving undone those Things, which Thou hast *commanded*; so that when *I* look back upon *my* past Life, and remember that *Thou* art privy to *my* most secret Sins, *I* am afraid of Thy Judgments,

and ashamed to lift up *my* Eyes unto Thee*. But, O gracious Father, who desirest not the *Death* of a Sinner, look upon *me*, I beseech Thee, in thy Son Jesus Christ; and for the Merits of *his* Sufferings, be Thou merciful to *my* Sins. Make *me* deeply sensible of the *great Evil* of them, and work in *me* a hearty Contrition, and let the *Remembrance* of them be more grievous and afflicting to *me*, than of *any other* Evil whatsoever; that *I*, worthily lamenting *my* Transgressions, and being brought to an Hatred of *my* Sins, and a hearty Repentance, may obtain *Forgiveness* at thy Hands, who art ever ready to receive humble and penitent Sinners; for the Sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, *my* only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

*Petition for Grace,
to reform, and grow
better.*

AND lest, through *my* own Frailty, or the Temptations which encompass *me*, I be drawn again to *my* former Sins; vouchsafe *me*, I beseech Thee, the *Direction* and *Assistance* of thy Holy Spirit; that, as thou hast put into *my* Heart these Desires and Resolutions of Amendment, so by the Help of thy *Grace*, *I* may bring the same to good Effect, in a godly, righteous, and sober Life. Reform whatever thou findest amiss in the Temper and Disposition of *my* Soul; that no unclean Thoughts, unlawful Designs, or inordinate Desires, may *rest* there. Purge *my* Heart from Envy, Hatred, and Malice; that *I* may never suffer the Sun to go down upon *my* Wrath, but may always go to *my* Rest in Peace, Charity and Good-Will, with a Conscience void of Offence towards *Thee*, and towards *Men*; that so *my* Heart being a fit Habitation for thy Holy Spirit, He may continually dwell therein; and *I*, whether *I* wake, or sleep, may be under his blessed Protection, and have *my* whole *Spirit*, *Soul*, and *Body*, preserved pure and blameless unto the Coming of *my* Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Intercession general,
and particular.*

WITH these Prayers, in Behalf of *myself*, accept, O Lord, as a Testimony of *my* Love and Charity, *my* hearty Intercessions for all Mankind. Let the Light of thy

* Here make a *particular* Confession of the Sins, and Failings of the Day past.

thy Gospel shine on *all* Nations; and may, as many as have already heard and received it, live as becomes it. Be more especially gracious to the Church and Nation whereunto *I* belong. Bless the King, and all, who by thy Providence have Authority under him; so rule their Hearts, and strengthen their Hands, that they may neither want Will, nor Power to punish Wickedness nor Vice, and to maintain thy true Religion among us. Send down thy *Blessings*, temporal and spiritual, on all *my* Relations, Friends, and Neighbours. Reward *all*, who have done *me* Good, and pardon *all*, who have done, or wish *me* Evil, and give them Repentance and better Minds. Be merciful to *all*, who are in any Trouble or Affliction of Mind, Body, or Estate; and do *Thou*, the the God of Pity and Compassion, administer to *every one* Help and Comfort, according to their several Necessities, for *his* Sake, who went about doing Good to the Souls and Bodies of Men, thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving general and particular.

TO these Prayers, and Intercessions for future Blessings, *I* add *my* unfeigned *Thanks* for all thy Mercies, which from Time to Time thou hast vouchsafed *me*; for *my* Being, *my* Reason, and all other Endowments and Faculties of *Soul* and *Body*: For *my* Health, Friends, Food, and Raiment, and all other Comforts and Conveniencies of Life. Above all, *I* adore thy tender Mercy and Compassion to *me*, and to all Mankind, in sending thy only Son into the World, to redeem *me* from Sin and eternal Death, and in giving *me* the Knowledge, and Sense of *my* Duty towards Thee. *I* bless Thee for thy Patience with *me*, notwithstanding *my* many and great Provocations; for all the Directions, Assurances, and Comforts of thy Holy Spirit; for thy continual Care and watchful Providence over *me*, through the whole Course of *my* Life; and particularly for the Mercies and Benefits of the *past* Day: Beseeching Thee to *continue* these thy Blessings to *me*, and give *me* Grace to shew *my* Sense of *them*, and all thy *other* Mercies, in a sincere Obedience to *his* Laws, through whose Merits and Intercession *I* hope for Acceptance, even thy Son *my* Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Petition for God's
Protection the fol-
lowing Night.*

IN a particular Manner I beseech Thee to continue thy gracious Protection to me this Night. Into thy Hand I commend my Soul and Body, my Substance, Dwelling, and all Things that belong to me. Do Thou, gracious God, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, be pleased to take both me and them, this Night into thy especial Care and Protection. Defend me from all Dangers and Mischiefs, and from the Dread and Fear of them; that I may enjoy such quiet and refreshing Sleep, as may fit me for the Duties of the following Day. And, Lord, make me ever mindful of that Time, when I shall lie down in the Dust; and grant me Grace always to live in such a State, that I may never be afraid to die; but that whether I live, I may live unto Thee; or whether I die, I may die unto Thee; so that living and dying I may be thine, through the Merits, and Satisfaction of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

On Sunday Evening, let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

[I thank Thee, O Lord, that thou hast permitted me this Day to attend on thee in the public Duties of thy Worship and Service. In Mercy, forgive all, which thy pure and holy Eyes have seen amiss in me; and may the Seed there sown take deep Root in my Heart, and bring forth Fruit abundantly, that, "being not a forgetful Hearer, but a Doer of the " Work, I may be blessed in my Deeds*." Help me in the following Week, "to set a Watch before my Mouth, and keep the Door of my Lips †:"—Preserve me "that my Heart may "not incline to any evil Thing, to practise wicked Works "with Men, who work Iniquity §;" but may I always be "a Follower of that, which is good †:" and "as I have received how I ought to walk and please Thee, my God, so "may I abound more and more ||." Awaken these good Thoughts

* James i. 25.

† 1 Pet. iii. 13.

† Psal. cxli. 3.

|| 1 Thess. iv. 1.

§ Psalm cxli. 4.

Thoughts and Desires in my Heart from Time to Time,
 " that the Words of our Saviour may abide in me, and I in
 Him *. And lead me by thy Holy Spirit to immortal Happi-
 ness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

You will observe (says Bishop GIBSON, in his Exhortation to Prayer) that each of these two Prayers for Morning and Evening is divided into several Branches; each Branch being a shorter Prayer, in the Manner of a Collect, and containing one distinct Head of the several Matters for which a Christian is bound to pray. And I chose this Method, says he, because in my Opinion, it keeps the Thoughts more distinct, than they can well be kept in one long continual Prayer; and if they happen to wander, the solemn Conclusion of one Prayer, with the Entrance on another, and the Part, which every one present [when it is used as a Family Prayer] has in saying AMEN to each, is a good Means to awaken the Attention, and to recal the Thoughts to their proper Work.

MORNING PRAYER for a Servant.

[By the late Bishop of London, Dr. GIBSON.]

On rising from Bed in the Morning think on these Words of the Psalmist,

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again; for the Lord sustained me, Psalm iii. 5.

And, when dressed, use the following Prayer.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whom I live, move, and have my Being; and whose Mercy is over all thy Works; I render Thee my humble Thanks for the Preservation of me from the Beginning of my Life to this Time. [Especially for thine inestimable Love in the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the Means of Grace, and the Hope of Glory.]

In

In particular, I *thank* Thee that thou hast *protected* me from the Perils and Dangers of the Night *past*, and hast given me quiet and comfortable *Rest*, and brought me safely to the Beginning of *this Day*.

Let the same good Providence still watch over me, and preserve my Going-out, and my Coming-in ; that I may be defended from all Dangers and Mischiefs, and from the Temptations of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

Give me Grace to behave myself with Sobriety, Diligence, and Honesty, in the Business of my Station, and with Duty and Submission to those, whom thou hast set over me ; and to desire and endeavour to live in Peace, and Love with all the Family.

Preserve in me a strict Regard to Truth and Sincerity in all my Words, and Actions, and let no Fear of Punishment, or Displeasure from *Men*, ever make me transgress my Duty to *Thee*.

And to the End I may walk in thy Fear *this Day*, and *all* the Days of my Life, [keep up in my Mind a due *Sense* of my past Folly, Ingratitude and Guilt, that I may be *humble and penitent* trust in Jesus Christ, and be circumspect and watchful for the future. May I *remember* that thine Eye is continually upon me] and that the *great Day* is approaching, in which I must give a strict Account of my Thoughts, Words, and Actions, and according to the Works done in my Body, be sentenced to Happiness or Misery to all Eternity.

Grant this, O Father, for the Sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen*.

Our Father, &c.—The Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

An EVENING PRAYER FOR A SERVANT.

[By the same BISHOP.]

MOST gracious God, who by thy wise Providence hast appointed to Mankind their several Stations and Offices in this Life, I acknowledge thy Wisdom and Goodness in *this*, and *all thy other* Dispensations; desiring in all Things to pay a ready and cheerful *Submission to thy holy Will*.

To this End, endue me with such a Spirit of Humility, Patience, and Contentment, as is *suitable* to the Condition, in which *thy Providence* hath placed me.

Bless me with Health of Body, and Comfort of Mind, that I may perform the Offices, which belong to me with Cheerfulness and Resignation; doing my Duty, as unto *Thee*, and not only unto *Men*; and resting on thy gracious *Promises*, for a Reward of my Labour, and Obedience in this Life.

And since, through the Frailty of my Nature, and the manifold Temptations, which I *daily* meet with, I am often offending, and cannot always stand upright, I *pray* Thee to *forgive* me all Transgressions of my Duty, whether in Thought, Word, or Deed, [through thy Son Jesus Christ, who came into the World to save Sinners, and offer Pardon and Peace to every *true* Penitent:] Especially *forgive* me the Sins and Failings of the *past Day*, and enable me by thy holy Spirit to avoid them for the Time to come, and to be ever growing in the Graces and Virtues of the Christian Life, as long as thou shalt be pleased to continue me in this World.

I thank Thee for thy *constant Care* over me amidst all the Chances of this mortal Life; and in particular for thy Preservation of me throughout the *past Day*; and I beseech Thee to *continue* thy gracious Protection to me *this Night*, that I may enjoy such quiet and refreshing *Sleep*, as may fit me for the Duties of the *following Day*.

All which I *beg* of Thee, in the *Name* and for the *Merits* of thy Son Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

On lying down in Bed think on these Words;

I will lay me down in *Peace*, and take my *Rest*; for it is *Thou*, O Lord, only, that makest me to dwell in Safety, *Psalms* iv. 9.

✚ It is an Observation of Dr. *Watts*, “ that *PARENTS* “ and *MASTERS*, who take due Care of the *Souls* of their “ *Children*, and *Servants*, should not only *admonish* and *en-* “ *courage* them to pray to God in *secret*, Morning and “ *Evening*, but should point out a *proper Place* for their “ *Retirement*.—This is easily done in *small Families*; and “ they should *inquire* whether their *Children*, or *Servants*, “ observe the *Seasons* of *secret Prayer*, or not.”

The two following short Prayers from our Liturgy, with the Addition here made to that for the Evening, may be learnt by Heart; and by such, as cannot pray without a Form, or retain longer Prayers in their weak Memories, these may be used at Times, when they have no Opportunity for Retirement, either as they ride, walk, or sit in Company with others.

IN THE MORNING.

O Lord, my heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought me to the *Beginning* of *this Day*, defend me in the *same* with thy mighty Power; and grant that *this Day* I fall into no Sin, neither run into any Kind of Danger; but that *all* my Doings may be ordered by thy Governance, to do always *what* is righteous in thy Sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

IN.

IN THE EVENING.

[**M**OST gracious God, I heartily *thank* Thee for all the *Mercies* I have this Day received ; am truly sorry for my Misdoings ; and humbly intreat thy *Forgiveness* of whatever Sins I have committed in Thought, Word, or Deed.] Lighten my Darknes, I beseech Thee, and by thy great *Mercy* defend me from all the Perils and Dangers of *this Night*, for the *Love* of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace of our Lord, &c.—
See Page 5.

A Parent's PRAYER for his Children.

[By Bishop WILSON.]

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *blest* my Children, for *his* Sake, with healthful Bodies, teachable Minds, and sanctified Hearts, that they may *remember* their Creator all their Days.—Let *thy Grace* preserve them from the Temptations of an evil World, and may I never be wanting in *any* Part of my Duty to them!—May I *instruct* them in the Faith of the Christian Life, and in the Duties of it, and set them an *Example* of these.—May I convince them of their Faults, and correct them in Reason, and Love.—Be *Thou*, O God, their Father, and their Portion in this World, and in the World to come! *Amen.*

MORNING PRAYER,

For an Infant at 3 or 4 Years old.

[By Dr. WATTS.]

Almighty God, the Maker of every Thing in Heaven and Earth, the Darknes goes away, and the Day-Light comes at thy Command: Thou *art* good, and thou *doest* this Good continually.

I thank

I thank thee, that Thou hast taken such Care of me *this Night*; and that I am alive and well *this Morning*.

Save me, O Lord, from Evil all this Day long, and let me love and serve thee for ever, for the Sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son. *Amen.*

AN EVENING PRAYER,

For an Infant of the same Age.

[By the same.]

O Lord God, who knowest all Things, thou *seest* me by Night, as well as by Day.

I pray thee for Christ's Sake, forgive me whatever I have done amiss *this Day*, and keep me safe *all this Night* while I am asleep.

I desire to lie down under thy Care, and to abide for ever under thy Blessing; for *Thou* art a God of all Power, and everlasting Mercy. *Amen.*

N.B. The most important Things of Religion, which can be conveyed into the Understanding of a *young Child*, are *these*: Namely, that God *made* all Things, and *knows* all Things; that He *sees* us every where; and is able to help us; that He is gracious and merciful; that we want his Protection and Care by Night and by Day, to keep us from Evil, and to make us always safe and happy; that we are *sinful* Creatures, and want *Forgiveness*; and that we stand in Need of his Grace and Help to do our Duty; that *all Blessings* are to be sought of God *by Prayer*; that He is to be *praised* for all the Mercies that we receive; and that all our Hope of Acceptance is on the Account of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Mediator. All which Things are comprized in a very plain Language, and very briefly, in one or other of these *two Prayers* for *Children* in the very *earliest* Years of Life. It cannot be expected, that *all* the distinct Parts of Prayer should be particularly exemplified in so *narrow* a Compass, and for the *youngest* Understandings.

If

If Parents desire, that their Children, as soon as ever they can pronounce Words, should acknowledge God by Prayer Morning and Evening, there is one Sentence in each of these Prayers for Infants, which may serve for that Purpose, namely,

For the MORNING.

Save me, O Lord, from Evil all this Day long; and let me love and serve thee for ever.

For the EVENING.

I pray thee, O Lord, forgive me whatsoever I have done amiss this Day, and keep me safe all this Night.

Here let it be observed, that the Infants Morning and Evening Prayers are made to serve for the first Sentences of the young Child's daily Prayers, that this Duty might be rendered, as easy as possible to young Children, by only adding a few more Petitions to what they had already learned.

A MORNING PRAYER for a young Child from 4 to 8 Years old.

[By the same.]

A Lmighty God, the Maker of every Thing in Heaven and Earth; the Darkness goes away, and the Day-Light comes at thy Command: Thou art good, and doest Good continually. I thank thee, that thou hast taken such Care of me this Night, and that I am alive and well this Morning. Save me, O Lord, from Evil all this Day long, and let me love and serve thee for ever, for the Sake of Jesus Christ thy Son.

Bestow on me every good Thing, of which I have Need for my Body and my Soul: Assist me by thy holy Spirit to do thy Will: Make me always afraid to offend thee; and let me live and die in thy Favour.

Hear the Prayers of a Child, O Lord, and pardon all my Sins, because thy beloved Son died once on Earth for sinful Creatures, though He never sinned Himself; and
now

now he lives in Heaven to * pray for them, and save them :
Let his Name be praised for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

To be added on Sunday Morning.

Suffer me not, O Lord, to waste this Day in Sin and Folly ; but let me worship thee with much Delight. Teach me to know more of *Thee*, and to serve thee *better* than ever I have done *before*, that I may be fitter to dwell in Heaven, where thy Worship and Service are everlasting. *Amen.*

*An EVENING PRAYER for a Young Child from
4 to 8 Years old.*

[By the same.]

O Lord God, who knowest all Things, thou seest me *by Night*, as well as *by Day* : I pray thee for Christ's Sake, *forgive* me whatsoever I have done amiss *this Day*, and keep me safe all *this Night* while I am asleep. I desire to lie down under thy Care, and to abide for ever under thy Blessing, for thou art a God of all Power and everlasting Mercy.

Bless all my *Friends* as well as *Myself* ; do Good to them at all Times, and in all Places ; and *help* me always to serve them in Love.

And, when I have done thy Will here, by thy Grace assisting me, and enjoyed thy Blessings on Earth, then give my *Soul* a Place in Heaven to dwell with *Thee* there, and with thy Son Jesus Christ : For Heaven and Earth, and all Things in them, are thine for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—May the Grace, &c.—See Page 5.

To be added on Sunday Evening.

Most gracious God, let me never *forget* the many good Things, which I have heard *this Day*, but let them abide
in

* The Word *Intercede* would have been here used, which signifies only to pray for another, but it was apprehended that Word would have been too hard for a Child.

in my *Heart*, so as to amend my *Life*; that I may be able to give a good Account of them to Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, when he comes to judge the World at the *last Day*.
Amen.

☞ Such, as are desirous of seeing further Examples of Prayers composed for *Children*; as for Instance from 8 Years old to 12; and from 12 to 21; may purchase Dr. *Watts's* little Book, intitled, *Prayers for the Use and Imitation of Children* (Price bound 1s.) which is well calculated to instruct them in the *Nature* of Prayer, and consequently merits the Notice of every Parent.

The Prayers at the Beginning of this little Manual, as well as those composed by *Bishop Wilson*, being principally designed for the lower Sort of People, are shorter, than are usually found in *Books of Devotion*, that their *Thoughts* might not be perplexed by a Multiplicity of Matter; and that their *Attention*, during the Act of Prayer, might be wholly engaged in it.—The *Morning Prayer* by *Bishop Gibson*, is indeed somewhat longer, as is that of his for the *Evening*; and are more adapted to Persons of rather an higher Rank;—but either of these Prayers may be read reverentially within the space of five or six Minutes: Consequently no Objection can lie against them on Account of their Length, or of the Time required to make Use of them.—As to Prayer (especially Family Prayer) in Respect of those of a superior Rank, an anonymous Writer has judiciously observed, that “where the *Worship of God* is
“not inwardly approved, the shortest Prayer will be counted
“a Weariness. And, even when it is approved, such an *Approbation* will scarcely be lasting, except those, who call
“themselves *Christians*, would keep more at Home, in their
“own Families, and engage less in public Diversions and
“Entertainments, which are the great Reproach of our
“Nation, and the Ruin of the rising Generation.”

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